

Blanco Ranger District 220 E Market Street Meeker, CO 81641	 United States Department of Agriculture	 
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MARVINE TRAIL #1823

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Heavy; moderate after the lakes

Length: 11 miles

Elevation: Starts at 8,171 feet and ends at 10,955 feet (highest point 10,955 feet)

Elevation Gain: +2,965 feet – 181 feet = +2,784 feet

Access:

- The Marvine Trail is located 35 miles east of Meeker.
- From Meeker, take State Highway 13 east for 1 mile.
- Where Highway 13 turns north, turn east on Rio Blanco County Road 8 for 28 miles.
- Turn south at Fritzlans Guest Ranch, cross the bridge, and turn east on the Marvine Creek Road (Rio Blanco County Road 12) for 6 miles to the Marvine Trailhead parking area.

Trail Highlights:

Marvine Trail goes south out of the parking lot entering the wilderness after about 1/2 mile. Following Marvine Creek through a narrow valley for 1/2 mile, the trail breaks out into wide grassy meadows flanked by aspen, spruce and fir to Slide Lake, 4 miles above the trailhead. You ford the creek at Slide Lake as the valley narrows with the Flat Tops plateau towering above the valley floor. The meadows change to small parks in between stands of aspen and mixed conifers. Six miles from the trailhead you reach lower Marvine Lake. The trail again fords the stream and follows the east side of the lake to upper Marvine. Undeveloped campsites are available along both lakes but make sure to camp at least 100 feet from the lake. Once above the lakes you enter a spruce and fir forest and climb rapidly for 4 miles onto the Flat Tops plateau. The Oyster Lake Trail is 11 miles from the origin of the Marvine Trail.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Marvine Trail is in the Flat Tops Wilderness, please educate yourself about Wilderness Ethics. Know the following rules:

- **Cattle:** May be grazing in the area
- **DOGS:** Possessing a dog or other animal that is harassing wildlife or people or damaging property is prohibited. There is no leash law in the Flat Tops, however dogs must be kept under verbal control at all times.
- **TRASH: PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT** -- even biodegradable items like fruit peels!
- Limit group size to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals or less
- **SANITATION** - bury human waste 100 feet from trails and water and 6 inches in the soil or pack it out along with toilet paper.

WILDERNESS AREAS are in a delicate state of natural balance, they are not renewable resources. Any careless act upsets this natural balance and destroys the beauty found in the Wilderness. By following Wilderness ethics and regulations you can protect and preserve the natural qualities of the Wilderness for future visits. **PLEASE, RESPECT THE LAND AND RIGHTS OF OTHERS**



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District
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